

century classroom. He also initiated the first student-built energy alternative project in Indiana on a school roof. Chancellor Thomas Keon, Ph.D., led the unification of two college campuses into a single university, Purdue University Northwest, which is one of the first innovative educational mergers in Indiana. The merger creates more choices for students, promotes regional identity, and contributes to economic development in Northwest Indiana. Elizabeth Lynn, Ph.D., is the director and founder of Valparaiso University's Center for Civic Reflection (CCR). A truly innovative learning center, the CCR is nationally recognized and applies the use of humanities and civic conversations within communities in America. The center has trained more than 7,000 facilitators and led more than 20,000 people in public, community, and workplace dialogues. Sandra Chimon-Peszek Rogers, Ph.D., is the director of Calumet College of Saint Joseph's Biophysical Chemistry Department and a researcher of Alzheimer's disease. She developed an innovative curriculum combining lecture and hands-on learning that is especially helpful for struggling students. This award winning program has thrived and is a source of pride for the college. Mayor Joseph Stahura, of Whiting, Indiana, led the city's transformation into a flourishing 21st century destination. He has put life back into the community by re-establishing and beautifying the Whiting lakefront, revitalizing the downtown area, and bringing the National Mascot Hall of Fame to Whiting, to name just a few of his major accomplishments. Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins is the Superintendent of Michigan City Area Schools. Under her leadership, the school system has flourished due to the collaboration of the community and county. Among her achievements, she launched the first NIPSCO Energy Academy in Indiana, the first STEM public elementary school, and the first construction technology program in Indiana.

Urschel Laboratories received the Greatness Award for Team Innovation, presented to Rick Urschel, President, for the company's inspiration to create future innovation. Urschel is now owned by its employees and recently completed a new \$100 million, 350,000 square foot manufacturing facility and headquarters.

The Chanute Prize for Team Innovation was presented to the Grand Calumet River Partners in Restoration. Collaborating with eight companies and working with regulatory agencies, the clean-up and transformation of the Grand Calumet River has been astounding, with more than 80 percent of the river being revitalized over the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these noteworthy, inspiring innovators. The contributions each has made to society here in Northwest Indiana and worldwide are immeasurable and lifelong. For their truly brilliant innovative ideas, projects, and leadership, these recipients are worthy of the highest commendation.

CONGRATULATING THE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ON THEIR NEW FACILITY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an organization in my district, Centers for Children and Families, on the opening of their new facility.

Since 1957, Centers has helped strengthen individuals and families throughout West Texas by providing counseling for those who would otherwise be unable to afford these services. In addition to counseling services, Centers also provides assistance with life management skills, parenting classes, post-adoption support, and programs that help children have safe and positive supervised parental visits.

As a prior Chairman of the Board for Centers, I have been fortunate enough to see firsthand the great work that this organization does for the Permian Basin community. With the opening of their new facility, Centers will have quality space to carry on their long-standing legacy of helping people get through the difficult times they may be facing. I wish them best of luck in their future endeavors.

UNITED STATES GREEN BERET JAMES "JIMMY" MORIARTY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 4, 2016, a military base in Jafr, Jordan was attacked. A hail of gunfire suddenly rang out while three American soldiers were returning to base. The reason for the shots fired is still publicly unknown. Three Green Berets from the 5th Special Forces Group were killed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

One of these heroic men was Staff Sergeant James "Jimmy" Moriarty (27). SSgt. Moriarty was a Texas native, one of Houston's own. He was scheduled to come home to spend the holiday season with his family. His chair was empty at the Thanksgiving table this year. His voice was missing from the conversation. But he will not be forgotten.

Jimmy was unquestionably one of the best. Growing up in Houston, he earned his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Texas and spoke fluent Arabic. As part of the 5th Special Forces Group, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., he was more than three months into his third tour in Jordan.

Upon graduation from the University of Texas, Jimmy made the choice to serve his nation in the United States Army. Jimmy was a proud member of the United States Army Special Forces. He was a special breed, one of the few who met the requirements to be among the highest ranked military professionals in the United States, the Green Berets.

During his service, he earned the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service

Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon and an Army Service Ribbon.

The brave men of the Green Beret are our nation's warriors. They take on the toughest missions that our nation faces. They are the absolute best that America has. These men are the forces who deter enemies who seek to harm the United States. They respond to terrorist activities to keep the United States safe. Proudly wearing silver wings on their chests they are without question America's finest.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of Marcus Luttrell, "In times of uncertainty there is a special breed of warrior ready to answer our Nation's call; a common man with uncommon desire to succeed. Forged by adversity, he stands alongside America's finest special operations forces to serve his country and the American people, and to protect their way of life." Jimmy Moriarty was one of these men.

Jimmy's father, U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran, James R. Moriarty wrote, "This is a young man who loved serving in the Army, was where he wanted to be, doing what he wanted to do." Moriarty was loved by his two sisters who incessantly saw to it that their younger brother would be a well rounded young man. It is without a doubt that this distinguished soldier will be missed by his family, friends, and community.

We grieve the loss of this American warrior, but we celebrate and honor his life and his service. We are fortunate to have a Green Beret like Moriarty standing in support of our country. We are fortunate that a man like Jimmy served our great nation. He stood for the best of those American ideals and values exemplified in Special Forces. He is a son of liberty. He epitomizes everything that America stands for. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

At noon on December 5, 2016 taps will be played for the last time as Staff Sergeant James Moriarty is surrounded by his family and friends and will be buried in Arlington National cemetery next to thousands of other warriors who died for America.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote #588 on H.R. 5422, To ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY CHARLES OGLETREE JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and contributions that Professor Charles Ogletree Jr. has made to the County of Merced. Professor Ogletree has positively impacted the lives of many people in Merced and throughout the nation. His